

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense of our Nation's freedom.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, the United States has a strong history of negotiating high-standard trade agreements that grow our exports and create jobs. Already, international trade supports more than 4.4 million jobs in California and 38 million jobs nationwide. We are in the midst of negotiating significant trade agreements with partners in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and elsewhere. But because Trade Promotion Authority is not in place, we are negotiating with one hand tied behind our back.

As a result, some of our negotiating partners are seeking to lower the standards of our trade agreements by excluding key products from full tariff elimination. In the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, countries such as Japan and Canada are seeking to exclude critical agriculture products from full tariff elimination. I am deeply concerned about this development for several reasons.

First, such exclusions from full tariff elimination would harm U.S. exporters and put them at a significant disadvantage, denying them valuable market access and leading to a ripple effect as other countries seek to exclude their sensitive products from liberalization. In fact, just yesterday, key agriculture groups called on the Administration to conclude TPP without Japan if it continues to resist opening its agriculture market.

Second, allowing exclusions in TPP would make it harder to reach good outcomes in future negotiations. Already, EU negotiators, empowered by Japan's intransigence, argue that they should be able to exclude products in the TTIP negotiations. And the Chinese are doing the same in negotiations to expand the information technology agreement in the WTO.

Madam Chair, I had intended to introduce an amendment today that would ensure that the United States concludes only high standard agreements by prohibiting the Administration from negotiating or entering into a trade agreement that excludes any product from full tariff elimination.

Such an amendment would ensure that we continue to secure maximum market access for our job-creating exporters. However, I decided not to introduce this amendment based

on an understanding with the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Froman, that he would work very closely with Chairman Camp and me to conclude a strong and ambitious agreement and would keep us informed about these negotiations in detail so that we may advise the Administration. I take that commitment very seriously, and it is only with this specific understanding that I am not offering this amendment tonight.

Again, I note that the current state of our negotiations shows the urgent need for TPA. Negotiating trade agreements with a strong Congressional mandate is vital to ensuring the best agreements possible. That's why I joined in introducing H.R. 3830, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, earlier this year. This legislation gives our negotiators maximum leverage to get the best deal possible in our trade negotiations and is key to unlocking new markets and creating U.S. jobs.

RECOGNIZING OZARK HIGH
SCHOOL JUNIOR ROTC DRILL
TEAMS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ozark High School Junior ROTC Drill Teams for being named national champions at the 2014 U.S. Army JROTC National Drill Championships.

Ozark High School represents the 3rd Brigade of the Army Cadet Command, which is comprised of teams from 10 states. The 3rd Brigade consists of 119 Army JROTC programs, and Ozark was one of just six honored to compete in the 2014 National Drill Championship.

The Ozark Unarmed Team placed first overall in their division with a total score of 3,833 points. The Ozark Armed Team placed second overall with a score of 3,690 points. The Ozark Rifle Team won their third consecutive National Championship.

Of the 1700 plus schools that have JROTC, there is only one school, one city and one state that can claim two National Championship teams in the same year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the instructors of the JROTC program and the family members of the students who support them.

I am honored to recognize the Ozark High School JROTC for their National Championships this year and wish them continued success in the future.

CAROL URNER

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues to honor Carol Urner, a community leader in Portland, Oregon who has worked for decades to pro-

mote peace, social justice, and global safety through nuclear disarmament.

Carol first voiced concerns about nuclear weapons testing in the 1960s and imagine her surprise when she found hundreds of other women who shared her passion that something must be done.

She co-founded Women for Peace, based in Portland, OR, which served as a model for grassroots groups around the country, each working to promote the first nuclear test ban treaty.

In 1963, Carol traveled to Japan and took one thousand white roses that she exchanged for one thousand peace cranes to honor the nuclear disarmament work of Women Strike for Peace.

Throughout her life, Carol survived many tragedies. Yet she always persevered and overcame difficult circumstances to continue her work.

For 35 years, Carol lived abroad with her husband and raised two children. In the midst of this, she sought to improve human rights for some of the world's poorest citizens.

Today she is still an active leader with the Portland Chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

It is a great honor to recognize Carol. She remains a dedicated leader and mentor in our community and her vision for a safer world is one we will continue to aspire towards.

RECOGNIZING ABILITYONE
PROGRAM

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an AbilityOne program. Located at Tinker Air Force Base, the program has resulted in the employment of more than 1,300 people with disabilities around the state of Oklahoma.

The AbilityOne Program buys products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. In doing so, the program affords Americans with disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, earn wages and benefits, and gain greater independence. This program provides vital assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

Since 1996, the Dale Rogers Training Center, with the assistance of Professional Contract Services, Inc. (PCSI) has improved the quality of life, helped remove barriers to independent living. The benefits to those that participate in the program cannot be overstated. The opportunity to work, be independent, and participate in community life enhances participant's lives and provides an avenue for them to contribute society.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I would like to thank all the people involved with the AbilityOne program, and PCSI for their important work to Oklahomans of all ages and abilities reach their full potential.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,490,047,622,577.60. We've added \$6,863,170,573,664.60 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendously positive impact the American Red Cross has on my congressional district.

Earlier this month, my constituents in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York endured disastrous levels of flooding. Upon finding their homes severely damaged, hundreds of people sought refuge at local Red Cross shelters.

I had the opportunity to visit the areas in Yates County hit hardest by the storm and was humbled by the outpouring of care and support provided by the Red Cross. As it has done countless times in the past, the Red Cross responded immediately to provide critical resources and assistance to our friends, families, and neighbors who were affected by the damaging floods. With the help of the Red Cross, these communities were able to pull together to support each other and overcome the challenges caused by the flooding.

Since its founding in 1881, the Red Cross has consistently provided excellent care and relief to those who need it most. Throughout wars, famines, and natural disasters, the staff and volunteers from the Red Cross put themselves on the front lines to help the victims of these tragedies through their times of need. Each year, the American Red Cross responds to over 70,000 catastrophes all over the world, providing emergency relief to those impacted. In addition to providing temporary housing, warm meals, medical assistance, and emergency blood supplies, the Red Cross deploys mobile response units to help ease suffering during disasters.

I thank the staff and volunteers of the American Red Cross for serving as "real heroes" in our community, our country, and throughout the world. I commend their dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of each person in need, especially in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

1. Moran Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

2. Blackburn Amendment No. 14 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

3. Blackburn Amendment No. 15 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

4. Bonamici Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

5. Rohrabacher Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

6. Holding Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

7. Massie Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

8. Southerland Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

9. Ellison Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

10. Grayson Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

11. Duffy Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

12. Garrett Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

13. King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

14. Meadows Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

15. Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this measure.

16. Final Passage of H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my colleague from California, Representative HUFFMAN for his leadership on this issue. I

also want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for working with us on this important amendment.

West Coast fishermen are in a tough spot, and in a very unique spot. Unlike other regions of the country where fishermen had their buyouts funded by taxpayers, our fishermen took on the loan willingly and knowing they would have to pay it back. And they are paying it back—but at an interest rate that is two points above prime and therefore costing them 5 percent of their landings.

Representative HUFFMAN, Representative HERRERA BEUTLER, and I are working to legislatively refinance this loan. In fact, today, that refinance bill passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and it has already passed the Senate Committee. But it's going to take some time to implement.

West Coast fishermen are bearing increased observer costs. We are transitioning to electronic monitoring, but that's going to take time—too much time in my opinion. But until electronic monitoring is adopted by the Council and NOAA, fishermen will have to pay for 100 percent observer coverage—which can be as high as \$350–\$450 per day.

And now, fishermen are bearing an additional cost—\$2.4 million this year to help pay for the management of the fishery—known as the "cost recovery fee." West Coast fishermen are willing to pay this fee. They knew the fee was coming. But, right now, with the mounting costs of the buyback loan, the observer costs, and pending trailing amendments that will make the fishery more economically viable—this additional financial burden is too much.

This amendment would provide one year of relief to West Coast fishermen. It would mean the difference for many fishermen of selling their boats and trying to find a different livelihood in already distressed coastal communities, or staying in business.

This amendment is bipartisan. It does not score. And it might not seem like a lot of money to people in this body, but it's a huge deal for my fishermen, their families, and small businesses that depend on the fleet to make a living. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 29 and May 30, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 243—Pompeo Amendment—Eliminates all funding for the Economic Development Administration and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—"no."

Rollcall Vote 244—McNerney Amendment—Increases funding for the COPS program by \$3 million (intended for the Technology Grant Program), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 245—Brindenstine Amendment—Increases funding for NOAA—Operations, Research, and Facilities by \$12 million (intended for weather research), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."